

GENUS

the review of the
ITALIAN COMMITTEE FOR THE STUDY OF POPULATION PROBLEMS
and of the

ITALIAN SOCIETY OF GENETICS AND EUGENICS
edited under the auspices of the National Research Council

Editor: CORRADO GINI

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the Natural Science Tripos at Cambridge in 1903, he joined the National Physical Laboratory and later worked on the development of tungsten filament lamps in a commercial laboratory. In 1913 he became superintendent of the Observatory at Eskdalemuir, where he started the studies of the physics of the atmosphere which were finally published in 1922 in his book *Weather Prediction by Numerical Process*. In 1926, while in charge of the Physics Department at Westminster Training College, he was elected a Fellow of

the Royal Society and received the degree of D.Sc. (Physics); in 1929 he obtained a B.Sc. (Psychology).

Mr. Ernest Gold, writing in *The Times*,* says of Dr. Richardson that he "was a man of wide interests, a penetrating, albeit a kindly, critic and a scientist who could use the simplest materials to illuminate experimentally the nature of a general problem or the conclusions of abstruse equations of mathematical physics."

* October 19th, 1953.

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A Journal of Human Genetics

Edited by L. S. PENROSE

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PHYSIOLOGICAL ZOÖLOGY

Edited by **Warder C. Allee**, University of Florida

EFFECTS OF OZONE ON ORGANISMS. By ARTHUR C. GIESE and ELEANOR CHRISTENSEN, Stanford University.

MANIFESTATIONS OF VITAMIN B₁₂ (CARNITINE) DEFICIENCY IN THE LARVAE OF THE MEALWORM *TENEbrio MOLITOR*. By L. G. FRAENKEL and PEH-I CHANG, University of Illinois.

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MATE-KILLING IN *PARAMECIUM AURELIA*, VARIETY 8. By R. W. SIEGEL, University of Indiana and University of Pennsylvania.

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- Man and Woman*. Oct.-Dec. 1953. **1**, 1. 112-14.
City Road, London, E.C.1. Price 1s.
- National Central Library. *37th Annual Report of the Executive Committee for the Year ending February 28th, 1953*.
- National Council for Social Service. *The Family: Report of the British National Conference on Social Work*. London, April 15th to 18th, 1953. Pp. 92. Price 3s. 6d.
- North Kensington Women's Welfare Centre. *Twenty-eighth Annual Report 1952-3*.
- Notcutt, Bernard. *The Psychology of Personality*. Methuen's Manuals of Modern Psychology. Ed. C. A. Mace. London, 1953. Methuen. Pp. 259. Price 21s.
- Optima*, September 1953. **3**, 3. Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, Johannesburg.
- Osborn, Frederick. "New Trends in Human Evolution." Reprinted from *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*. 1953. **97**, 2.
- . *Preparing for Parenthood*. (Summarized from *Preface to Eugenics*. 1951. Harper.)
- Pakistan News*. 35 Lowndes Square, London, S.W.1.
- Sorsby, Arnold. *Clinical Genetics*. London, 1953. Butterworth. Pp. x + 578. Price 90s.
- Stone, Abraham. "Fertility Problems in the World Today." Reprinted from *Eugenical News*, 1953. **38**, 3.
- Westoff, Charles F., et al. *Social and Psychological Factors affecting Fertility*. xx. The Use, Effectiveness, and Acceptability of Methods of Fertility Control. Reprinted from *The Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly*, July 1953.
- W.H.O. *Annual Epidemiological and Vital Statistics 1947-9*. Part II, Cases of Deaths from Notifiable Diseases. Geneva, 1953. W.H.O. Pp. 291. Price 25s.
- . Technical Report Series, No. 70. *Joint U.N./W.H.O. Meeting on the Mental Health Aspects of Adoption*. Geneva, 1953. Pp. 19. Price 1s. 3d. No. 73.
- . *Expert Committee on Mental Health, Third Report*. Geneva, September 1953. Pp. 38. Price 2s.

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THE following have been elected Fellows of the Society during the past quarter:

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have added considerably to the objective value of this study. The hope may perhaps be expressed that in all future studies of this

kind the aid of a psychologist be sought in order to supplement the examination of the psychiatrist.
H. J. EYSENCK.

OTHER NOTICES

Fry, Margery. *The Single Woman.* London, 1953. Delislè. Pp. 44. Price 2s. 6d.

THIS is obviously not a eugenic subject, but the advice Miss Fry gives so charmingly and amusingly is so excellent that it could well be accepted and followed even by the most eugenic parents—female or male. And, moreover, for their own comfort let it be remembered that although as she says "Spinsters have always had a raw deal," it is nothing compared with the raw deal meted out to mothers-in-law, from which concentrated music-hall malice the single woman will inevitably (and for ever) escape.

This very small and attractive booklet can safely be recommended to all readers.

URSULA GRANT DUFF.

Oster, Jakob. *Mongolism: a clinicogenealogical investigation comprising 526 mongols living on Seeland and neighbouring islands in Denmark.* Copenhagen, 1953. Danish Science Press. Pp. 206. Price Danish Kr. 21.

MONGOLISM is one of the commonest and most serious of congenital abnormalities. Children with

this condition are almost invariably mentally defective, usually imbeciles though occasionally idiots or feeble-minded. They also often have one or more physical deformities such as an abnormally formed heart. Dr. Øster has surveyed a very great number of children with mongolism in an attempt to find the cause. His figures for the incidence of mongolism in the three counties of Denmark which he surveyed agree well with those found in English and American studies. He has confirmed the effect of maternal age on mongolism. He has found little evidence that any consistent event early in pregnancy is associated with the condition. He has found, too, little evidence that genetic effects are important in mongolism, though his figures for the incidence among brothers and sisters of children of mongols are not presented in such a way as to make it possible to calculate just what the risk is to later children in the family. He claims, but does not perhaps satisfactorily prove, that there are unusually long pregnancy-free intervals both before and after the birth of a mongol.

C. O. C.

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What is Race?

To the Editor, Eugenics Review

SIR,—The UNESCO booklet *What is Race?* is, implicitly in its format and explicitly in its introduction, an attempt at popularization of what is a complex subject. As such, it contains many oversimplifications which may legitimately be referred to in a review. Nevertheless, I feel that Dr. Darlington's review in your October 1953 number is unnecessarily harsh and patronizing.

Thus, dealing with Miss Tead's quotation on p. 36 of Haldane's definition of a race as "A group which shares in common a certain set of innate physical characters and a geographical origin within a common area," Dr. Darlington comments rather witheringly, "Now this is a popular definition" and goes on to tell us that "We now define a race, not in terms of 'characters,' but in terms of processes of exchange or recombination among genes or chromosomes; in other words in terms of mating." What he does not tell us, but what a reading of pp. 22, 33 and 41 of the booklet itself makes quite clear, is that Miss Tead is also thinking of a race in such terms. And, if writers are to be tied down to their *ipsissima verba* rather than taken in their evident general sense, what are we to think of Dr. Darlington's statement that we now "define" a race in the way he indicates?

Then Miss Tead is taken to task for speaking on p. 41 of the absurdity of talking about a "pure race" and Dr. Darlington implies that she and UNESCO "throw out the science with the superstition." But her very next sentence, which was not quoted in the review, shows clearly that she is not indicating the *idea* of a "pure race" to be absurd, but the amount of ethnic mixture in

human history to make it absurd to use the phrase "pure race" of existing ethnic groups. Admittedly, once again her phrasing was not of the most felicitous, but her evident meaning is happy enough.

I cannot be sure what is the semantic content of Dr. Darlington's rhetorical question about human chromosome numbers; but, if he is really implying that he believes that members of different human races have different chromosome numbers, it would be interesting to hear why he thinks so. And, when he makes merry with Miss Tead's use of the phrase "common source," he must surely realize that she is speaking, as her context leaves no doubt, not of a common anthropoid source of men and apes but of a common human source of racial groups.

As to his little joke about her failure to use a quotation from Toynbee, that is all right as a joke, just as another might joke about Dr. Darlington's failure to quote from Gobineau; but the important thing surely is that in fact she does not quote the one any more than he quotes the other.

Finally, about Dr. Darlington's comments on the two UNESCO statements on race. I know little about either cavalry officers or mechanized warfare, but perhaps just enough to realize that his attractive metaphor may be misleading. If the non-geneticists are the cavalry officers, presumably the geneticists are the engineers who know what makes the wheels go round, and it is not inconceivable that the former may have some understanding of mechanized warfare denied to the latter.

CYRIL BIBBY.

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